

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004. With this Amendment, Claims 40-79 are pending. Claims 1-39 have been canceled. Claims 40-47, 51-53 and 61-70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,038,051. Claims 48-49, 54-60 and 71-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. Claim 50 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 61, 68-71 and 76 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the application. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter removed or modified by this amendment in a related divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) rejection of claims 40-47 and 51

The examiner has not shown Suzuki to disclose all the limitations of claim 40 as amended. In particular, Suzuki has not been shown to disclose “at least one beam deflector aligned to receive a plurality of beams of light from a plurality of light sources and operable to scan the beams in at least two dimensions including a fast scan axis and a slow scan axis across respective overlapping regions of a field of view,” as recited by amended claim 40. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claim 40 allowable.

Insofar as claims 41-47 and 51 depend from an allowable claim, they are now similarly allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claims 48-49

The examiner has not shown Suzuki in view of Nakamura to disclose all the limitations of claims 48-49 as amended. In particular, Suzuki in view of Nakamura has not been shown to disclose “at least one beam deflector aligned to receive a plurality of beams of light from a plurality of light sources and operable to scan the beams in at least two dimensions including a fast scan axis and a slow scan axis across respective overlapping regions of a field of view,” as recited by amended claim 40, from which claims 48-49 depend.

Additionally, the examiner has not shown Suzuki in view of Nakamura to disclose all the limitations of claim 49 as amended. In particular, Suzuki in view of Nakamura has not been shown to disclose that “the overlapping regions of the field of view are arranged such that each region extends along a dimension corresponding to the fast scan axis and overlaps with at least one region adjacent in a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis,” as recited by amended claim 49. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claims 48-49 allowable.

Objection to claim 50

Insofar as claim 50 now depends from an allowable claim, Applicant urges the examiner to remove his objection thereto.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) rejection of claims 52 and 53

The examiner has not shown Suzuki to disclose all the limitations of claim 52 as amended. In particular, the examiner has not shown Suzuki to disclose “scanning a plurality of beams of light across a field of view along fast scan and slow scan axes, wherein each of the plurality of scanned beams illuminates a respective region of the field of view that overlaps with at least one other of the respective regions adjacent in a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis,” as recited by amended claim 52. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claim 52 allowable.

Insofar as claim 53 depends from an allowable claim, it is now similarly allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claims 54-60

The examiner has not shown Suzuki in view of Nakamura to disclose all the limitations of claims 54-60 as amended. In particular, Suzuki in view of Nakamura has not been shown to disclose “scanning a plurality of beams of light across a field of view along fast scan and slow scan axes, wherein each of the plurality of scanned beams illuminates a respective region of the field of view that overlaps with at least one other of the respective regions adjacent in a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis,” as recited by amended claim 52. Insofar as claims 54-60 depend from claim 52, they are now similarly allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) rejection of claims 61-70

The examiner has not shown Suzuki to disclose all the limitations of claims 61-70 as amended. In particular, Suzuki has not been shown to disclose “a beam scanner operable to scan a plurality of beams across respective regions of a field-of-view, the regions having at least two dimensions corresponding to a fast scan axis and a slow scan axis, wherein each of the plurality of regions at least partially overlaps at least one other region aligned in a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis,” as recited by amended claim 61. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claim 61 allowable.

Insofar as claims 62-70 depend from an allowable claim, they are now similarly allowable.

Additionally, Suzuki has not been shown to disclose “wherein a dimension corresponding to the fast scan axis is aligned substantially horizontally and a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis is aligned substantially vertically,” as recited by amended claim 68. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claim 68 allowable for this reason as well.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claims 71-79

The examiner has not shown Suzuki in view of Nakamura to disclose all the limitations of claims 71-79 as amended. In particular, Suzuki in view of Nakamura has not been shown to disclose “a beam scanner coupled to receive a control signal from a controller and operable to scan a plurality of at least partially overlapping beams across respective regions of a field-of-view, the regions having at least two dimensions corresponding to a fast scan axis and a slow scan axis, wherein each of the plurality of regions at least partially overlaps at least one other region aligned in a dimension corresponding to the slow scan axis” as recited by amended claim 71. Applicant urges the examiner to rule amended claim 71 allowable.

Insofar as claims 72-79 depend from an allowable claim, they are now similarly allowable.

Applicant believes this amendment and remarks to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 17. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now

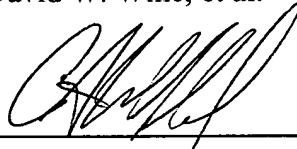
Application No. 10/768,199
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Reply to Office Action Dated December 17, 2004

in condition for issuance. Applicant respectfully requests the examiner to grant issuance with claims as now amended. The Examiner is invited to call Mr. Chris Wiklof at the telephone number indicated below for any communication that may aid in the advancement of this patent application to issuance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0284.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Wine, et al.



Christopher A. Wiklof
Registration No. 43,990

CAW:kje

Enclosures:

Postcard
Two (2) Checks
Post-Filing Transmittal and Fee Transmittal (+ copy)
Petition for Extension of Time (+ 2 copies)

Microvision, Inc.
PO Box 3008
Bothell, WA 98041
(425) 415-6641
(425) 415-6795 facsimile